

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 06617 220800Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 INT-05 TRSE-00 XMB-04 SP-02 /039 W
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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1380
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 6617

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: EMIN, PP
SUBJ: REYNOLDS ALUMINUM INTEREST IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

REF: (A) STATE 226077, (B) CANBERRA A-16, (C) CANBERRA A002,
(D) CANBERRA A-088

1. NO BAUXITE DEPOSITS OF ANY ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA TO DATE. SEVERAL SCATTERED DEPOSITS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT AND ON SOME SMALL ISLANDS. RESOURCES ATTACHE NOT AWARE OF ANY CONCERTED EFFORT BEING MADE BY EXPLORATION COMPANIES TO DISCOVER BAUXITE. REF B REPRESENTS A THOROUGH ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT MINERAL SCENE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

2. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, TWO LARGE BAUXITE DEPOSITS IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS (REF C). DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESOURCE IS CURRENTLY STALLED PENDING A REFORMATION OF THE JOINT VENTURE (REF D).

3. RESOURCES ATTACHE, ON VISIT TO SOLOMON ISLANDS, WAS TOLD THAT THERE WAS SOME POSSIBILITY THAT BAUXITE OR ALUMINA FROM THE SOLOMONS COULD BE EXPORTED TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND PROCESSED FROM BAUXITE INTO
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ALUMINA OR FROM ALUMINA INTO ALUMINUM. ANY VENTURE OF THIS NATURE WILL REQUIRE THE DEVELOPMENT OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S HYDROELECTRIC POTENTIAL.
ALSTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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